Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 IO-11

EUR-12 /110 W

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R 151700Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2631 INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAI, NG

SUBJ: NIGER GRAIN NEEDS

REF: STATE 005828

1. MINISTER OF RURAL ECONOMY BAYERE MOUSSA INFORMS
US THAT WHILE IN GENEVA TO ATTEND WMO/UNDP MEETING ON
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PROJECT IN SAHEL
HE HAD USEFUL SIDE MEETING WITH DABELL OF OSRO IN
WHICH NIGER UNDP RES REP ROTIVAL ALSO PARTICIPATED
TO DISCUSS NIGER'S FOOD REQUIREMENTS. ACCORDING TO
BAYERE MOUSSA, DABELL REPORTED THAT EVALUATION MISSION
FINDINGS OF FOOD IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF 108,000 TONS FOR
NIGER WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY DONOR COMMUNITY AND OSRO
WAS IN TOUCH WITH DONORS WHO WERE CONDIERING NEXT STEPS.
DABELL ALSO INFORMED BAYERE MOUSSA THAT NEITHER OSRO NOR
DONORS ACCEPTED GON'S CLAIMS OF OVERALL FOOD DEFICIT UP
TO 200,000 TONS AND IF GON STILL INSISTED ON THIS
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FIGURE, IT WAS UP TO NIGER TO MAKE ITS CASE WITH DONORS. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE GON HAS

ACCEPTED EVALUATION MISSION'S REPORT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION TO THIS EFFECT.)

- 2. AS FOR NEXT STEPS, DABELL SUGGESTED THAT GON MIGHT WISH CALL MEETING OF DONOR REPS IN NIAMEY WHICH DABELL WOULD BE PREPARED TO ATTEND. HE AGREED WITH BAYERE MOUSSA THAT MATTER WAS URGENT AS NEEDS OF DISTRESSED AREAS WOULD BEGIN TO BE FELT WITHIN NEXT THREE MONTHS AND FOOD SHOULD BE IN PIPELINES SOON TO MEET THIS NEED.
- 3. DURING THIS DISCUSSION, BAYERE MOUSSA ALLUDED TO US PLANS TO CONTRIBUTE APPROXIMATELY 25,000 TONS OF GRAIN AND SEEMED GENERALLY CONVERSANT WITH ARRANGEMENTS WE PROPOSE FOR TRANSFER OF THIS AMOUNT TO NIGER (REFTEL).
- 4. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATING IN DONOR MEETING IN NIAMEY, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ROME SITE WOULD RESULT IN MORE PRODUCTIVE SESSION IN TERMS OF DONOR PLEDGES. RDO IS MEETING WITH GON JANUARY 16 TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON GENERAL AGREEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL US FOOD ASSISTANCE TO MEET NIGER'S GRAIN NEEDS PER REFTEL. A REPORT ON THAT MEETING AND FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF THE FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM THAT APPEARS BUILDING UP IN THE NORTH WILL BE FORWARDED SHORTLY. END COMMENT.HECK

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